

CAHS

The Connecticut Association for Human Services
110 Bartholomew Avenue · Suite 4030
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
www.cahs.org

5426
Michael Rohde, President
James P. Horan, Executive Director
860.951.2212 x 235
860.951.6511 (fax)

Testimony before the Human Services Committee Re: H.B. 5426

The Connecticut Association for Human Services (CAHS) is dedicated to ending poverty in Connecticut and ensuring that all families have the tools they need to achieve economic security. We support the act concerning subsidies for the unemployed under the Care 4 Kids Program, allowing a parent, who becomes unemployed, a child care subsidy for a period of twenty-six weeks.

First, I would like to thank the Committee for raising this bill in acknowledgement of the supports needed to keep Connecticut families working. This statute would allow for,

- Continuity of care to children and allow parents the opportunity to aggressively job search, without the worry of unavailable childcare. While the current Care 4 Kids regulations allow for continued subsidy up to the month after the month of employment interruption, a maximum of 60 days, in the current economy of job reduction and scarcity, parents need to be allowed sufficient time to acquire gainful employment. Aligning the child care subsidy time frame with the time allotted for unemployment compensation would be a logical step for the unemployed to return to work.
- Second, this bill addresses continued outcry of child care providers for increased financial stability. The continued loss of jobs, and decreasing funding to early care providers result in a breakdown of the early care system, with a gross reduction of families access to care, and consequently their ability to return to work.
- Finally, the proposed federal stimulus includes dollars for the Child Development Block Grant that would serve as a possible source of funding for this extension of Care 4 Kids.

We welcome the opportunity to offer more insight on this issue.

Sherry Linton
Early Care and Education Policy Analyst
(860) 951-2212, x 233
slinton@cahs.org